

#### Members

Sen. Sue Landske, Chairperson  
Sen. Ron Alting  
Sen. Joseph Zakas  
Sen. Earline Rogers  
Sen. William Alexa  
Sen. Rose Ann Antich  
Rep. Charlie Brown  
Rep. Dan Stevenson  
Rep. Linda Lawson  
Rep. Ralph Ayres  
Rep. Dan Dumezich  
Rep. Dean Mock  
Mayor Duane Dedelow



# NORTHWEST INDIANA TRANSPORTATION STUDY COMMISSION

*Legislative Services Agency*  
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789  
Tel: (317) 232-9588 Fax: (317) 232-2554

#### LSA Staff:

James Sperlik, Fiscal Analyst for the Commission  
James Jett, Attorney for the Commission

Authority: P.L. 149-1999

## MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

Meeting Date: October 12, 2000  
Meeting Time: 1:00 P.M.  
Meeting Place: South Bend Regional Airport, Board Room  
Meeting City: South Bend, Indiana  
Meeting Number: 3

**Members Present:** Sen. Sue Landske, Chair; Sen. Earline Rogers; Sen. Rose Ann Antich; Rep. Dan Stevenson; Rep. Linda Lawson; Rep. Dean Mock.

**Members Absent:** Sen. Ron Alting; Sen. Joseph Zakas; Sen. William Alexa; Rep. Charlie Brown; Rep. Ralph Ayres; Rep. Dan Dumezich; Mayor Duane Dedelow.

Senator Landske, the Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The Chair announced that the Commission did not have a quorum present and could not make any recommendations, but that testimony would be taken for today's agenda items.

### 1. John Schalliol, Manager, South Bend Regional Airport

Senator Landske recognized Mr. John Schalliol, Manager of the South Bend Regional Airport, and thanked him for hosting today's meeting. Mr. Schalliol then described the expansion plans for the South Bend Regional Airport. He told the Commission of ARI 21, the federal funding bill which provides for grants to general aviation airports. Mr. Schalliol also said that with this funding, there would be an increased workload for the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Aeronautics Division and that he was concerned about INDOT's staffing and ability to handle the increased workload.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

## **2. Richard Ives, Member Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)**

Senator Landske recognized Mr. Richard Ives, a member of the NICTD Citizens Advisory Board. Mr. Ives told the Commission that the CAB has been in existence since June, 2000. Mr. Ives said that the CAB is a ten-member board, with two members from each of the four counties in which the South Shore Railroad operates and two from Illinois. The South Shore also operates in Illinois. The NICTD operates the South Shore Railroad.

Mr. Ives described his membership on the CAB as a learning experience. He said that the CAB is trying to figure out and understand the operation of the railroad. Mr. Ives said that the CAB will tour the NICTD facilities on October 21 for a better understanding of the South Shore Railroad. The CAB normally meets in Chesterton, Indiana, Mr. Ives said.

Representative Stevenson commented that the creation of the CAB was in response to his efforts to expand the NICTD board. He further commented that the CAB mirrors the NICTD board. Mr. Ives said that on-time performance of the trains is a big issue for the CAB, along with maintenance of the restrooms and the facilities in general.

## **3. Kathy Noland, Director of Public and Legislative Affairs, INDOT**

The Chair next recognized Ms. Kathy Noland. Ms. Noland addressed the status of work on U.S. 41. Ms. Noland introduced Ms. Chris Baines, and Mr. Rod Adams, the project managers for the work on U.S. 41. Ms. Noland told the Commission that the addition of one lane was the choice of the INDOT, but due to the impact on the residents and businesses, the INDOT opted for a fifth lane for left hand turns. Ms. Noland said that this project will be done in four phases, from north to south. The estimated cost for this project is \$40 million. Ms. Noland commented that the big concern is keeping the traffic moving.

Representative Stevenson said that he was concerned about the businesses in Highland and has been concerned for two years. He asked if anything has been finalized. In response, Ms. Baines said that the design was approved in 1998, and available in Highland. She said that every parcel of land is engaged in negotiations at the present time. Ms. Baines also said that while changes can occur during land acquisition, the overall scheme is final. Ms. Baines said that the INDOT wants to improve the existing intersection where there were 1,200 accidents in a three year period. She said that while the INDOT designs out for 20 years, that traffic volume is already here. Ms. Baines said that adding traffic lanes was considered, but that the impact was too severe. In response to a question from Representative Stevenson, Ms. Noland said that the INDOT would look into putting in a traffic light at the Industrial Area in Schererville, north of the bridge.

## **4. Kent Johnson, Highland Business Owner**

Senator Landske next called upon Mr. Kent Johnson. Mr. Johnson told the Commission that the rules governing such projects as the one on U.S. 41 should be changed to use tax records as well as plat records. He said that the lessees and the landlords should be contacted. Mr. Johnson said that he is concerned about the materials being used in the project. He said that he fears asphalt will not stand up to the traffic. Mr. Johnson also said that he was concerned about the infrastructure drainage associated with road repairs. He also expressed concern about whether or not the INDOT can speed up the project. Mr. Johnson also said that the INDOT might consider delaying the Highland phase until the Calumet Avenue project is completed. He believes that there will be huge traffic jams. He also suggested that the INDOT begin the Highland phase with the Southern portion. Lastly, Mr. Johnson told the Commission that he believes a second opinion is necessary regarding the use of asphalt.

In response to a Commission question regarding the bidding procedures to be used on this project, Ms. Baines said that A+B bidding may be used. This process involves both incentives and penalties for the successful bidder.

#### **5. Jerry Hanas, General Manager of NICTD**

Senator Landske called upon Mr. Jerry Hanas. Mr. Hanas responded to questions from Representative Mock about the financial condition of NICTD. Mr. Hanas told the Commission that the pending capital improvements over the next five years leaves NICTD about \$60 million short. Mr. Hanas said that a complete financial overview was provided the Commission at its first meeting and that he would provide one to Representative Mock.

Mr. Hanas said that there are many bridges over which the South Shore Railroad travels that are at, or near the end of their useful life. In response to another question from Representative Mock, Mr. Hanas said that eight new cars are to be delivered by the end of the calendar year. Mr. Hanas also said that there are commuters who have to stand. He said that NICTD is rebuilding 44 cars over the next three years. Regarding the NICTD funding request, Senator Landske asked Mr. Hanas to get it together and sent it to the staff.

#### **6. Other Business**

Senator Landske asked the staff to prepare resolutions for the next meeting. These resolutions would address and express support for the following: 1) the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission's (NIRPC) 2020 plan; 2) Commuter service for the Gary Airport; 3) High Speed Rail; 4) the South Suburban Expressway; 5) NICTD; 6) INDOT's efforts for funds for High Speed Rail.

The Chair announced that the next meeting will be on October 27, 2000, at 1:30 p.m in the Board Room of the NICTD headquarters in Chesterton. With no further business, Senator Landske adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.